

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending in the application. Claims 1-6 stand rejected. Claims 7-9 have been indicated as having allowable subject matter provided such claims are placed in independent form incorporating the limitations of their base claims.

Claims 1-6 have been cancelled to facilitate issuance of this case.

Claims 7-9 have been written in independent form to incorporate the limitations of their base claims:

- Claim 7 incorporating limitations of base claims 1 and 6;
- Claim 8 incorporating limitations of base claims 1 and 6; and
- Claim 9 incorporating limitations of base claim 1.

Claims 20-26 have been added and are dependent, either directly or indirectly, on allowable claim 9.

At least in light of the above amendments and the foregoing remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 7-9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. However, the Examiner has indicated that such claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 7, 8, and 9 have been so amended and should now be in condition for allowance.

New claims 20-26 depend upon now-allowable claim 9 and should also be in condition for allowance. Such claims incorporate limitations of now-cancelled claims 2-6.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over previously cited prior art references Boyd, et al., in view of Barg, et al., and further in view of newly cited reference, U.S. Patent No. 6,925,442 (Shapira).

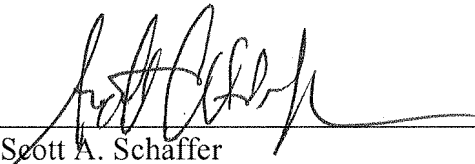
As such rejected claims have been cancelled, the rejection is no longer necessary and Applicant respectfully requests removal of the rejections and objections of the claims and pass the case to allowance.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 7-9 and 20-26 of the application as amended is solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,

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